

**Electric Assistance Program Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 27, 2017**

**Participants:**

Amanda Noonan, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
Gary Cronin, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
Bryan Connelly, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
Rorie Patterson, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
Celeste Lovett, New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives  
Tracy Desmarais, New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives  
D. Maurice Kreis, New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate  
Pradip Chattopadhyay, New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate  
Nicole Harris, Liberty Utilities  
Lisa Sheehy, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative  
Danielle Martineau, Eversource  
Janice Johnson, Eversource  
Susan Corson, Unitil  
Stephen Tower, New Hampshire Legal Assistance  
Ralph Littlefield, Community Action Program  
Shannon Nolin, Community Action Program  
Karen Emis-Williams, Concord Human Services

**Minutes:** New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives

**Agenda Items-October 27, 2017 Meeting**

**1) Approval of July 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting began with a discussion of the draft minutes from the July 2017 meeting of the Electric Assistance Program (EAP) Advisory Board. The Board approved the minutes with only a correction in the spelling of Karen Emis-Williams last name.

**2) Application of EAP discount to competitive supplier energy portion of the bill**

The board reviewed the effect on the EAP fund of different implementation timeframes and discussed the cost projections prepared by the utilities. The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) questioned the disparity between the utilities with regard to the cost of implementation. The Board felt the size of customer base should not affect the implementation cost, however, the age and functionality of the utilities' customer information systems (CIS) may affect cost as those with newer systems may have lower costs since they would have newer technology and be more flexible.

Eversource questioned whether the competitive suppliers would have responsibility in contributions to EAP. Since the utility bill already assesses the System Benefits Charge on all kWhs, this is not an issue.

There was also discussion about whether the Commission had the authority to and, if it had the authority, whether it should require competitive suppliers serving residential customers to participate in consolidated billing through the

utility in order to participate in EAP. The Board agreed that consolidated billing is necessary to apply the discount to customers who take energy supply from competitive suppliers.

The Board agreed that the next step would be to draft a proposal to submit to the Commission. D. Maurice Kreis, from the Office of Consumer Advocate, volunteered to draft the proposal with cover letter to the Commission. The Board discussed inclusion of timeframes for implementation in the proposal to the commission.

### **3) Outdoor Lighting**

#### **a) Number of EAP Customers with outdoor lighting**

- Eversource: 160 customers with OL receiving EAP benefits ranging from \$1.20-\$20.50 per month for a total of \$14,000 per year.
- NH Co-Op: 103 customers with OL receiving EAP benefits.
- Liberty Utilities: Does not have any customers with OL receiving EAP benefits.
- Until: Does not have any customers with OL receiving EAP benefits.

#### **b) Costs associated with changing (including in discount calculation if don't already or excluding from discount calculation if included).**

- Eversource: \$30,000 to change as the currently have combined billing.
- NH Co-Op: \$7,300 to change as they currently have combined billing.
- Liberty Utilities: No cost as they bill separately.
- Until: No cost as they bill separately.

The Board is in agreement that the EAP discount should apply to only one account. The utilities who currently provide an EAP discount on outdoor lighting will make the necessary changes to their CIS and billing systems so that no benefit will be applied to outdoor lighting. The Utility Procedures Manual will be updated to reflect this.

### **4) Miscellaneous**

#### **a) Community Action Agency (CAA) Procedures Manual**

- The Board agreed to modify the CAA Procedures Manual for EAP to remove Supplemental Security Income (SSI) received by minor children from countable income, based on the August 2, 2016 NH State Supreme Court ruling. This change will make the EAP consistent with the federally funded fuel assistance program.

#### **b) Net metering**

- Collection of System Benefits Charge (SBC): The Board agreed that the EAP discount is applied to the net usage, but the SBC is to be collected on gross usage, not net.
- The utilities are to verify if they are collecting the SBC on gross usage vs. net. Subject to verification from the utilities that all net metered customers are billed the SBC on the gross kWh usage, the Utility Procedures Manual will be updated to reflect this.

### **5) New Business**

Celeste Lovett of the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) updated the Board regarding the status of the RFP for new software for the Fuel Assistance and Weatherization Programs. The RFP will include an option for EAP to be part of the new software as well. The target date for issuance of the RFP is January 2018. Celeste requested a volunteer from the Board for programmatic knowledge of EAP as OSI is working with NH DoIT for the technical aspects. Shannon Nolin from the Community Action Partnership volunteered.

**Next Meeting: January 26, 2018 at 9:00 am     Minutes by: Unutil**